



September 30, 2015

(b) (6)
Durango, CO 81301

Dear (b) (6),

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is aware that you have raised concerns regarding potential impacts, to property near the Farmington Extension Railroad Water Tank and a nearby island in the Animas River, related to the Gold King Mine release. We want to assure you that we remain aware of your concerns.

EPA has worked closely with the San Juan Basin Health Department and the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment to evaluate the conditions in the Animas River following the Gold King Mine incident. Surface water and sediment samples results for the river system as a whole are being maintained at pre-event conditions. It is important to keep in mind that metal concentrations in water and sediment may fluctuate. Fluctuations occur because of weather and other events that change water flow rates or volume. They can also occur if sediments are accumulating at a higher than normal rate at a particular site, before being washed away by the next high water event. Data received from samples collected from other properties in the area have met risk-based screening levels for recreational use.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact Cynthia Peterson, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at (303) 312-6879.

Sincerely,

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8

Enclosure

CC:
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
San Juan Basin Health Department
San Juan County Public Health



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